

UP FRONT, "THE SKINNIE"

**HON. JACK KINGSTON**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 24, 2009*

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to submit for the RECORD this article from "The Skinnie" written by Scott Loretto.

The W-2 summary statement detailing my '08 taxable earnings arrived by mail last week. As usual, I opened it, skimmed the numbers, cursed the government, and reminded myself to be grateful.

I try to let daydreams of bureaucratic misuse of MY fiercely-fought-for funds die there. Send the thing off to my accountant and be done with it for another year. But, it's inevitable. At some point, I'll say it. Just like you probably have. To your spouse. Your mother. Your financial advisor. Your god. Or yourself. In both anger and disbelief. "Can you believe I paid (fill in the blank with the appropriate amount) in taxes?! And for what?!"

But, the point is, you pay them. Just like I do. You might not like it. But you recognize you're not above the law. You were fortunate enough to be born under the Red, White, and Blue, or you found your way here one way or another, and you accept that the privilege comes with costs. You might be summoned to jury duty. Your conduct is bound by a set of laws. You can choose to wear the uniform of a particular service branch. And, if you earn a certain amount of money, the government's going to compel you to surrender some of it.

So, despite your political inclinations, you should be apoplectically outraged.

Timothy Geithner is a tax cheat.

Timothy Geithner is the 75th Secretary of the United States Treasury.

Among other things, the United States Treasury runs the Internal Revenue Service, the bureau responsible for collecting your taxes.

Don't be blinded by your ideology. And don't buy into the comically ridiculous notion that this is the only guy who could handle the job. Want the truth? I'll summarize Geithner's resume for you. He has ZERO meaningful private-sector experience. He has spent most of his 23-year professional life at three public-sector-focused institutions—the Treasury Department, the International Monetary Fund and The Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Is he a smart guy? Sure. He graduated from Dartmouth and earned a master's degree from Johns Hopkins. Never mind that government and Asian studies were his academic areas of concentration.

So—ONLY guy for this crucial job during this time when we've embraced (inexplicably) the notion of equivalence between the federal government and our collective savior?! Out of more than 300 million American citizens?! Are we really that naive? Forget naive—stupid. I could reproduce the resumes of my 750 classmates from the Wharton School and you'd probably find 300 that make Geithner look like an underachiever.

Moving on, we have former senator Tom Daschle. He cheated on his taxes, too. Okay, he's sorry. And, he says, it was "inadvertent." Apparent working definition of inadvertent: When you realize you're about to get caught and you've been named to the President's cabinet, call your accountant and let him know you stole from the American people. Then, start to cover your tracks. When that fails, promise to return the spoils of your theft. Finally, frown deeply and speak in somber tones as you feign

contrition in front of the cameras you conveniently assembled.

Don't misinterpret my message. I can promise you the Democrats don't hold a monopoly on deceit and defamation of the public trust. In fact, Geithner could be a Republican for all I know. And, with certainty, the House of Representatives is home to tax cheats on both sides of the aisle as I type.

Here's the point. You're giving trillions of dollars to companies that have failed or underperformed. Would you do that with your own savings? Say you own a stock. The company is doing lousy. The management stinks. The industry is dying. Would you take more of your money and double down? Or would you sell so fast your broker's head would spin and redeploy the money elsewhere.

It's a no-brainer. You don't want to own a portfolio full of dogs. You try to reward winners with good ideas. It's your money. You make the smartest choices you can.

Well, the "bailout" is exactly the opposite. It's the forced allocation of capital to institutions that haven't earned it by merit. In a capitalist economy, capital (where do you think the name came from, anyway?) flows toward opportunities that provide promising returns and away from festering sinkholes of imprudence. Guess what—you don't live in such a place anymore.

So, throw up our hands or move to Antarctica? No. We love it here. But let's start small. One simple demand. Any public employee at some predetermined level of seniority must be subjected to an IRS audit. Period. Every representative. Every senator. Every secretary and undersecretary. Refuse, and forfeit your spot.

We have the resources. Instead of randomly auditing a few thousand private citizens, redirect the resources to this end. Remember, all of these people work for us.

Oh, you argue, "Qualified people won't seek these jobs."

I respond, "If they cheat on their taxes, they're not qualified."

One more thing—something Messrs. Geithner and Daschle probably wouldn't like. If you cheat, you're out. Go try and make a living in the real world like the rest of us.

# RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VILLAGE OF MIDDLEPORT

**HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN LEE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 24, 2009*

Mr. LEE of New York. Madam Speaker. It is with great pride that I rise today to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Village of Middleport, New York, a family-oriented community that nearly 2,000 Niagara County residents call home. Located just 45 minutes from Buffalo and Niagara Falls, the Village of Middleport, rich in history, has rightfully earned its "Friendly Community" moniker. The slogan came from President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who stopped in Middleport while traveling along the Erie Canal. FDR rightfully called Middleport "a friendly community."

Middleport's history is closely tied to the Erie Canal. Founded in 1859, the Village quickly became a popular stopping place for workers on the historic waterway. Many residents can remember a time when dozens of barges would line the canal and workers would stop by the local mills, factories and businesses on a daily basis.

The Village prides itself on being a family-centered hamlet. It is no surprise that in 2007 BusinessWeek Magazine named Middleport the best place to raise a child in New York State because it "provides a good measure of all the things a child needs to grow and prosper."

The celebration of all these historic accomplishments wouldn't be possible without the dedication of trusted Village Historian Anna Wallace. For three decades, Anna has done an extraordinary job documenting Middleport's narrative. Her years of work in archiving the background of the Erie Canal and its role in the development of Middleport will be used for generations to come.

Madam Speaker, in recognition of the 150th Anniversary of the Village of Middleport, I ask this Honorable Body to join me in honoring the Village of Middleport and their dedicated Village Historian Anna Wallace.

## COMMENDING INA GOLUB OF UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

**HON. LEONARD LANCE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 24, 2009*

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of National Women's History Month and to congratulate Ina Golub of Mountainside, New Jersey who will be honored on Friday, March 27, 2009 at the 17th Annual Women of Excellence Dinner held in Union County, New Jersey.

This special annual event is hosted by the Union County Commission on the Status of Women in the Seventh Congressional District and highlights the amazing work of individuals who are making our communities better places to live. The Commission on the Status of Women recognizes the contributions of women in the fields of education, health care, the arts, government, business, law, community service, technology, public service and women's advocacy and lifetime achievement.

This year's Fine Arts Award will be given to Ina Golub whose fiber and bead artwork is known nationally and internationally. She is currently the subject of a major exhibition at the Newark Museum. Working largely with Judaic themes, Ms. Golub has created artwork for synagogues, museums, and private collectors throughout the United States and Israel, including nine monumental ark curtains, more than 450 Torah mantles, wedding canopies, hand-woven tapestries, decorative wall hangings, and a major Holocaust memorial. She has also created many rabbinical garments and prayer shawls. Awarded the Philip and Sylvia Spertus Judaica Award in 1998, and 2005, Ina's works were included in a major exhibition at the Contemporary Jewish Museum in San Francisco.

Ms. Golub is particularly known for her beaded spice containers which have received national and international recognition. Her works have also been commissioned by synagogues and private collectors, creating custom designed fiber art of all descriptions and forms.

Ina Golub of Mountainside, New Jersey has made significant achievements for her artistic talents. I am pleased to congratulate Ina Golub for her outstanding efforts and share